CIAT

International Center for Tropical Agriculture

Since 1967 / Science to cultivate change

PABRA

Pan - Africa Bean Research Alliance

Better Beans for Africa

SWOT ANALYSIS

ECABREN

2011

ECABREN

Eastern and Central Africa Bean Research Network

Réseau de Recherche sur le Haricot en Afrique de l'Est et du Centre

Strengths

- Efficient flow and utilization of germplasm across NARS
- Better response to regional and local income and consumer market priority and needs
- More efficient/effective utilization of financial and human resources as funding was based on comparative advantage and sharing of results
- Built capacities by enhanced training (technicians, MSc, PhDs, small and large equipment – vehicles)

Strength cont'd

- Exchange of improved materials accelerated release of varieties across NARS
- Funding by approved proposals based on clear activities/outputs and comparative advantage ensured delivery and accoutability

Strength cont'd

- Publication and information exchange was enhanced through (proceedings, reprints, seminars and workshops, traveling learning tours to share results

- Opportunities to submit many proposals lead by selected competent scientists from many disciplines within different institutions in NARS

WEAKNESS

I. Weak management

- Weak involvement of other scientists in national programs especially coordinator e.g., universities, private sector
- Inability of some partners to play their roles
- Limited allocation of resources vs activities expected
- Not all national bean programs achieved their targets
- No flexibility and adaptation to the internal and external trends (is delivery assumed?)

Weak management cont'd

- Money allocation among national programs erratic in shortage and timely availability of budget not adhered to
- Exchange of experiences and capacity building less attended

- Responsibilities allocation for market class needs to be reviewed
- Information gap in different aspects (germplasm flow, pedigree etc..)

Weak management cont'd

- Shortage of facilities (labs, cold storage, screenhouses)
- Misplacement and misallocation of research funds limited: National programs often received funds that could not be used well because it was not based on national programs
- More of regional approach needed
- No feedback from other programs due to less information exchange fora

II. Infrastructure related

- Poor infrastructure. i.e., cold rooms and screenhouses in collaborating countries

III. Human Resource

- Inhibit creativity and innovation by NARS

- Many projects and sub projects at network level but not increased staff within NARS while some of them have limited human resources (allocated by central govt)

- Very static staff and very few young scientists and therefore static ideas which may now be irrelevant

IV. Technical weakness

- Failure by some scientists to freely share materials
- Limited information on pedigree of introduced lines
- Pedigree documentation
- Data recording on number of farmers reached
- Insensitive for NARS staff
- Over reliance on one country to address a given trait because of interest and not because of strength

Technical weakness

- Overdependence on specific countries to develop breeding lines/pops
- Communication of research findings is poor especially between individual countries and PABRA
- Inability of some programs and program to provide enough testing materials within a short notice

- Poor tracking of germplasm due to change of names
- Extension/dissemination not emphasized
- Few publications developed therefore the science happening is perceived of low caliber by outsiders

Technical weakness cont'd

- Weak/poor/absent data, information of both technical nature and related to seed as well
- Poor information sharing-not using email effectively-non responsiveness to email communication
- Environmental diversity in the region not considered at the early phase of evaluation
- Fewer learning and exchange study tours

Gender

- Gender based in breeding program and no records also on gender based on number of farmers reached
- Weak gender reporting and breeding

Opportunities

Funding

- Donors more than before but interest ship to fund organized groups – supplementary funds more available
- Centers better placed to handle what they are competent in
- Funding based on comparative advantage
- Avoiding duplication/saves time and resources
- Proposal based on regional issues across countries with similar constraints/priorities

Market opportunities

- High demand of marketable type
- Existence of niche markets
- Increased urbanization will increase demand for beans

- High consumption of beans especially in east and central Africa
- Involvement of industry in evaluating canning qualities (where industry exists)

Opportunity to influence policy

- to influence policy makers towards conducive environment about:

  environmental management;

  better infrastructure (roads, agro-inputs, storage facilities, development

  budgetary allocations and

  gender equity

Technical related opportunities

- Availability of variation for some constraints (diseases and drought)
- Availability of modern breeding to support conventional one: Biotechnology molecular breeding
- Beans as major priority crop in operating countries
- The prevailing climate change the challenges phasing the community; Biotic and abiotic challenges

Technical related opportunities

- Diverse ecologies for screening for abiotic and abiotic constraints under natural conditions
- Diverse niche markets which may trigger regional markets between countries
- Availability of advanced technologies e.g. MAS
- Genetic diversity (on beans) in operating country

Gender

- Targeting women farmers as men go to towns
- Beans a women crop and more likely to benefit the women, children and disadvantaged in society

Human Resources

- Capacity/human capacity available
- Related to publication commission more write shops every year and support national partners to consolidate data for journals
- Diversification and specification of scientists across regions
- Experienced staff (stable staff)
- Capacity building across all programs possible

Human Resources

- Regional projects possible: address common issues within a short request
- Trained manpower in many disciplines
- Skills sharing across the network
- To have varieties released in several countries where it is adaptable
- Capacity building in data organization for different uses technical to social impact type of data
- Improved capacities in the NARS created

Climate Change

- Changing research environment due to climate change
- Specific and storage project or program to link with PABRA
- Take advantage of different stress in the region (climate change)

Threats

Collaboration

- Reduced confidence dn trust among partners

Market

- Changing consumer habits

- Changing market dynamics

Funding

- Availability of funds
- Support by different govt through NARS
- Experienced breeders
- Sharing information within NARS through seminars, workshops, conferences, papers and posters

Funding

- Funding of activities not tailored to comparative advantage and competence
- Fewer workshops and seminars to share results
- Coordination of network can be more strengthened
- Resource limitations, dynamic change in research cost
- Global economic crisis affecting funding

Environmental

- In case of calamities there could be loss of a whole program
- Emerging constraints in relation with climate changes and variability
- Changing pest/disease/climate dynamics
- Climate change
- Climate change and climate availability seems to be complicated to cope with, since it is changing too much
- Climate change (unpredictable)

Management

- Objectives never achievable due to misallocation of funds to program that do not have capacity or interest in the activity

- Inadequate and erratic flow of funds

Human resources

- Trained scientists leaving the program

- Trained man power turn over from NARS

Policy

- Policies which encourage specific market class to be traded
- Ad hoc restrictions to cross borders trade by governments
- Changes in relative importance attached to beans by producers
- More of the data collected is ten years old and can be out dated and difficult to use to convenience policy or donors

S.W.O.T

	Technical	Capacity	Management	Gender
Strength				
Weakness				
Opportunity				
Threats				

MURAKOZE
THANK YOU
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AHSANTE

ZIKOMO